

A

# REVIEW

OF THE

# STATE

OF THE

# BRITISH NATION.

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Thursday September 20. 1711.

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**I**N the Remarks which I made in my last, upon the Subject of a late Quarrel I had observ'd, between the Vintners of London, and two particular *Portugall* Merchants, Dealers in Wine; among the other Advantages which I told you the Publick would receive by it, this was one, *viz. That it would restore us to the Ancient Usage and Custom in England, long forgotten, and almost lost, I mean of drinking WINE: What our Taverns and publick Houses drew us, under the Title and Denomination of Wine, pass'd so many Galphs, Racks, and Draughts, was so heightned to-day, and redd'd to-morrow; so shifted,*

*brew'd, mix'd, fin'd, and refin'd, and in short, suffer'd so many and various Operations, that little remain'd to the Drinker, but the Name and the Colour of Wine; the rest was all supply'd of our Home Growth, as they call it.*

I have heard a good Story, that will serve to explain what I mean by that Word, *Home-Growth*: A certain Vintner took an Apprentice, who he design'd to employ wholly under his Cooper, and so to bring him up to be what they call a *Cellar-Man*—The Boy apply'd himself very well to his Business, and prov'd a very honest Servant. ~~However,~~ However, as too much Law is the worst

work Oppression, *Summum Jus, Summa Injuria*, so meer Honesty with no Penetration, has its very great Unhappynesses too— This Boy takes a Thought into his Head one Day, that the *Cellar-Man*, to whom he was Assistant, had wrong'd his Master, and being a very Conscientious young Rogue, he resolves to disclose it, that his Master might no longer be a Sufferer; and as he thought he had obtain'd a full discovery of the Fraud, he sets it down very exactly, such a Day so many Hogsheds convey'd out of the Cellar, such a Day so many, and thus on, to about 56 Hogsheds; when it came to this height, concluding his Master would be undone, if this Trade held, he takes an occasion to acquaint his Master, that the *Cellar-Man* was a great Thief, that to his Knowledge, he had convey'd away great Quantities of his Goods, and he was ready to make it appear: The Master brings them Face to Face, and the Boy pulls out his Pocket Book, and reads the Cask, Number, and Sizes, *thus, Item October 20. 16 Hogsheds of Syder taken into the Cellar, 12 great Casks of Perry, and 8 Puncheons of Whites, i. e. (Turnip Juice)*— And, Sir, says the Boy, there has not been a drop of it Sold, and I am sure it is all gone, and none has had the Keys of the Vaults but himself— The Master turn'd his Head away, that the Boy should not see him laugh, and the Boy being about to read on, adjourn'd the Enquiry to another Time; since which, the Boy has learn'd to add some Wit to his Honesty, and now makes as good a *Cellar-Man* as his Master did.

I fancy if this Trade goes on, it will be something like the Discoveries which, they say, were formerly made, of the Wickedness of the Nuns and Fryars at the Dissolution of Monasteries. There the Bones of Murther'd Infants and Desflower'd Nuns were found, some in the Fish-Ponds, Vaults, and Cavities of the Buildings— Here the Poisoning Art of Adulteratings, Sophistications, corrupt Mixtures, and all the abominable Ingredients and Compositions, which turn'd our simple Liquids into Wine, will be found— The *Elder-Barries* for

Colour, the Juice of Turnips, the Syder, the Perry, &c. for reducing the Strength, and adding a Briskness; the *Allom* to give a Roughness, the *Ising-Glass* to force down the Lee; and a Thousand other nameless Mixtures, to MAKE-UP, as they call it, their Wines, these will all be found— I think they begin already to appear, and we stand and wonder at their Variety, just as we do when you Ramage a House-breaker, and take from him his Pick-Locks, false Keys, his Gigs, Bettyes, Punches, and all his Nameless Instruments, to open Doors, Windows, Locks, Chests, Cupboards, Scrutores, &c.

Never was there such a Mystery of Iniquity in a Thing so meerly common, and only a Managing as to Trade, detected in the World; the Whore of *Babylon* had not more Triquets in her Attire, proportion'd to her Occupation: A Vintner set upon a Stage, with all his Brewing, Mixing, Converting Implements and Materials hung about him, and carry'd in Procession, would look like the Burning of the Pope.

And was there ever such a Desolation among the Wine Brewers of this Kingdom! They look to me like the Monks and Fryars after the Reformation here, who were dispossest of their fat Lodgings and Seats of Pleasure, and were turn'd a-drift to work for their Bread; indeed the Thing was something Cruel, considering they were not bred to any Trades, and tho' it was absolutely necessary too— But being out of Business, they fell some to one Trade, some to another; some to the Army, some to the Jails, and some to the Gallows; and so it must be now, among the Coopers, the Cellar-Men, the Monagers of Wine, &c. nay, and I fear a little, the Vintners themselves too, but of that hereafter.

And what is the Matter? Why, the Case is plain; we are supply'd with Wine now, instead of a Red Decolour, which they mix'd up for us— The Cellars Erected by the two Merchants aforesaid, have wrought this Reformation most effectually for us; for as these sell true Natural Wines, neat, and unmix'd, without Arts and Adulterations,



alterations, People (*and Reason good*) run hither for their Wine: *And now*, if the Vintners will not sell their Wines Neat, as they buy them, no body will go to their House. — This will not only send all private Families to these publick Cellars, but it will bring all the Vintners to fall into the Trade of selling true unmix'd Wines also, or shut up their Doors and give over; for who will drink Wine in a Tavern and be Poison'd, that can have it from the immediate Importer, Neat, as it comes from the Grape?

I have nothing to do in this Discourse, with the Prices or with the Quantity brought to the Market, I shall only touch there here, I shall talk of them at large afterwards. — As to the Price, here is a banter upon the common Custom of Trade; for such was the Insolence of the Vintners before, that they had no more to do, but put a *hard Name* upon what they gave you instead of Wine, and they made no difficulty to impose what Price they pleas'd upon you; so that in this Case, contrary to the Usage in all Trades, the worst Goods sold for the highest Price, and the best Goods now are sold under the Price.

If then Cheapness causes Consumption, we may come to have our *Portugal Trade* restor'd again, I mean in the Article of Wine, which all People will allow to be a gainful Trade to *Britain*, as it carries out our Manufactures, and encourages our People to Labour; and as the Import from thence was lessened, at least, Twenty Thousand Pipes of Wine a Year, by the Arts and Mischiefs of the Vintners, we shall encrease

that Trade again by Consequence, and restore it to what it was before.

And after all, *What shall we say*, That this Nation should be impos'd upon to that degree, that we should drink 20000 Pipes every Year of Nasty, Brew'd, corrupted Mixtures of we know not what Ingredients, and pay our Money for it at 2 s. per Quart, purchasing Death and Diseases at an extravagant Price, and wasting our Purse to debauch our Palates?

I saw in some of our Prints, whether true or not, an Account of the Necessity there is, to inspect our Jails, and the Misery and Wretched Way of living among poor Prisoners. — To see, that for want of Necessaries, Air, Food, and cleanly Living, they do not contract Noisome Diseases, and lay the Foundation of the Plague, so much dreaded at this Time among us: But had there not been more need for some Years past to inspect the Cellars of the Vintners and Coopers, to prevent Diseases spreading among us, from the Filth and Corruption that has been to be found among some of them. — (I do not say all, for I have known some Vintners that have been Honester than to admit the Practice) But of the rest, I firmly believe as many People have been sent to their Graves in this City by drinking bad Wine, or rather Liquor call'd Wine, as by any Ordinary Disease in the Weekly Bill.

I might say something of the double Danger, because of Men's drinking these Things call'd Wine, *as Wine*, and by Consequence to Excess; but I adjourn that part to farther Consideration.

#### ADVERTISEMENT.

English Pills for the Scurvy, the best-Purging and Purifying Medicine for the Blood in the World; they carry off sharp Salt Humours, takes away Scabs, Blisters, Boiles, Leprosies, and all other Scorbuitick Eruptions of the Skin, ease Pains, carry off the Cause

of Wind Cholick, Gripings, Stiches, Hicups, foul Stuffings, Purshness, Wheezings, &c. making the Body chearful, lightsome and easie. it is sold for 3 s. 6 d. the Box, at the Golden Key in Warrens Court near Holborn Bars.

A D V E R T

## ADVERTISEMENT S.

**T**HIS is to give Notice, That Messieurs Brook and Hellier of London, Merchants, who do now give such general Satisfaction in Retailing their New Natural Portugal Wines in the said City, (being the best that have come from Portugal for many Years past) have for the more effectual supplying the other Parts of the Kingdom, caus'd Ships to Sall directly from Portugal to the following Places, where they are Arriv'd with the like Natural Wines, being the only New Wines that are now there, or can Arrive this Season; which Wines are to be sold by the following Persons, in the respective Places, viz. By Mr. Davis, Agent in Plymouth; Messieurs James and John Arnold in Portsmouth; Messieurs James Wakeman, and John Negus in Farnmouth; Mr. Joseph Taylor of Wyssich in Lynn Regis; Mr. Crowle in Hull; Mr. Jof. Stone in Gainsborough; Mr. William Proctor in Newcastle upon Tyne: Note, the Price, viz. The Vienna Wines at 14 l. per Hogshead, or at 5 s. 4 d. per Gallon, and the Oporto Wines at 16 l. per Hogshead, or 6 s. per Gallon.

**R.** Stoughton, Apothecary, in Southwark' having some Time since, by order of a Merchant, sent 50 Dozen of his Cordial Elixir to Sweden, has lately receiv'd Advice that Numbers of People finding it a great Preserver of Health, drink it every Morning: And further to assure it is so, hath a Certificate from thence, That (to the Person's best Knowledge and Observation) not one who took it hath had the Disease; and many are of Opinion it hath been of great Use in stopping the Progress of it. He hath also a Certificate from on board a Ship at Jamaica, That after 6 or 7 of the Men died in 24 Hours of a Malignant Distemper, the Captain himself (fearing he should

lose all his Men) gave the rest, who were seiz'd, plentifully of this Elixir (which for many Years he took with him) and by God's Blessing on it, sav'd every Man after. He is not only willing, but desirous this may be publish'd for the Good of others. Few now will go to Sea or travel without it. The Certificates themselves any Gentlemen may see if they please.

Several Boxes are just now sent again into Sweden, and I hear the Czar's Physicians have order'd it into the Army. I wish some Merchants would send it into Denmark, it might do much good there, and large Profit to the Sender.

**Q**UACKER Unmask'd; in 3 Parts, containing, 1. Reflections on the 7th Edition of Mr. Martin's Treatise of the Venereal Disease. 2. An Examination of the Charitable Surgeon, The Generous Surgeon, The Tomb of Venus, and a pretended new Method of curing this Disease. 3. A brief Enquiry into the Ancient and present State of the Practices of Physick and Surgery; a full Account of Quacks; then (in a concise Method) is shewn the Cause, Nature, Signs, and Dangerous Effects of this Disease, various ways of Receiving, Symptoms first, Discovering, and only Method of preventing its Infection; together with the best, most cheap, safe, speedy, easie and private Methods of Cure. As also the Cause and Cure of Old Glands in Men, and Weakness in Women. The Second Edition Enlarg'd. Sold by D. Brown without Temple-Bar, G. Strabin, at the Golden-Ball in Cornhill, and B. Barker, in Westminster-Hall, and by the Author, Dr. Spink, at his House at the Golden-Ball, 3 Doors directly past the Sun-Tavern, in Milk-street Market, Cheap-side. Price 2 s.

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